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ΠΑΡΟΧΟΠΙΑΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΜΑ · NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE · TER DOCUMENTATIE**

Strasbourg, 10 July 1986

441.2(103)

**STATEMENT BY MR. WILLY DE CLERCQ
ON THE PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT OF THE TRADE DISPUTE
BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES**

In a statement to the European Parliament, Mr. Willy DE CLERCQ, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for external relations, described the provisional settlement which had ended the trade dispute between the Community and the United States over the effects of Spanish accession.

Mr. DE CLERCQ was extremely satisfied with the agreement reached following the negotiations which he and Mr. Frans ANDRIESSEN, Vice-President of the Commission, had held with United States representatives, which has just been approved by the Council. This arrangement had stopped the dispute from escalating, which would have had serious consequences, not only for the two parties directly involved, but also, in the run-up to the new GATT round, for world trade.

During the negotiations, the Americans had made important concessions by dropping exaggerated demands, and Mr. DE CLERCQ drew the following conclusions from the outcome of the talks :

- in spite of differences between the Community and the United States, the two powers were still willing to settle even the most difficult problems;
- it had once again been clearly shown how much a determined attitude and a common front could benefit the Community. Without the firm resolution of the Council of 16 June this positive result could not have been achieved;
- during the next six months the Community ought to do everything possible to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion. Otherwise there was a danger that we would be faced with a new confrontation in December, which in the current world trade situation would be most unwelcome.